

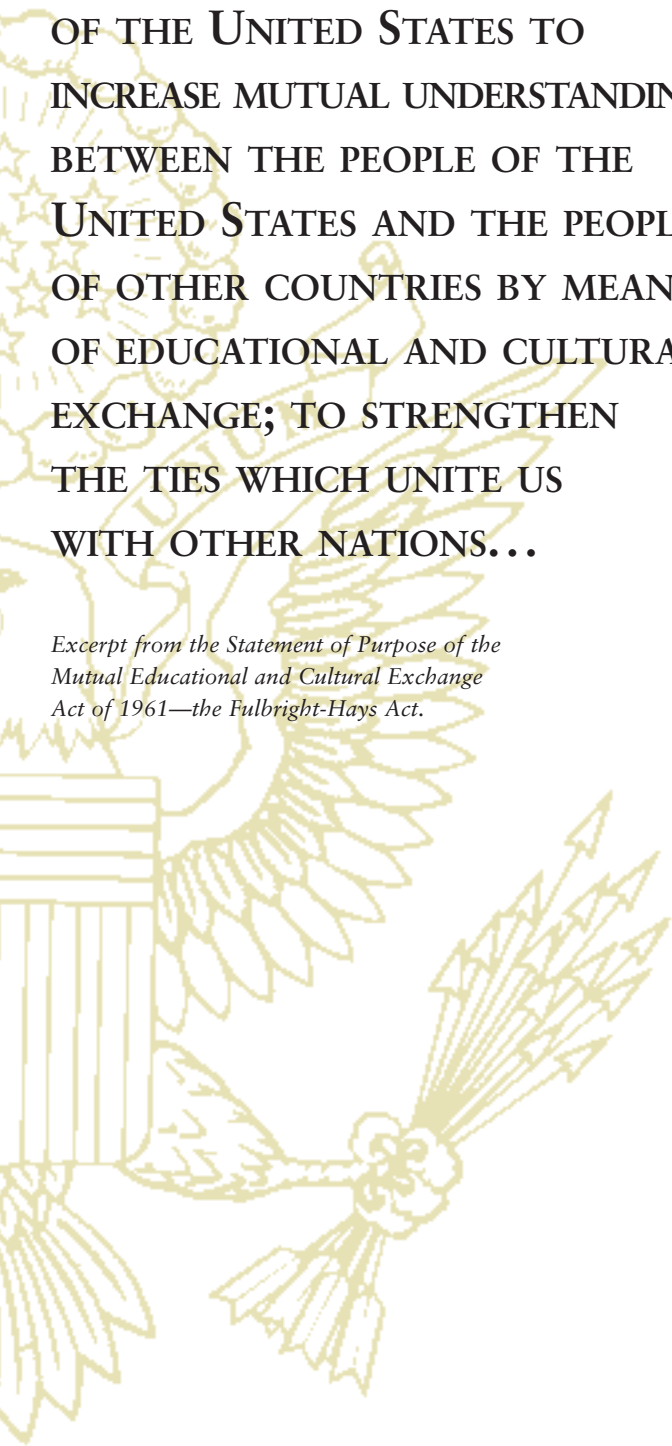
United States
Department of State

The
Ties
Which
Unite
Us

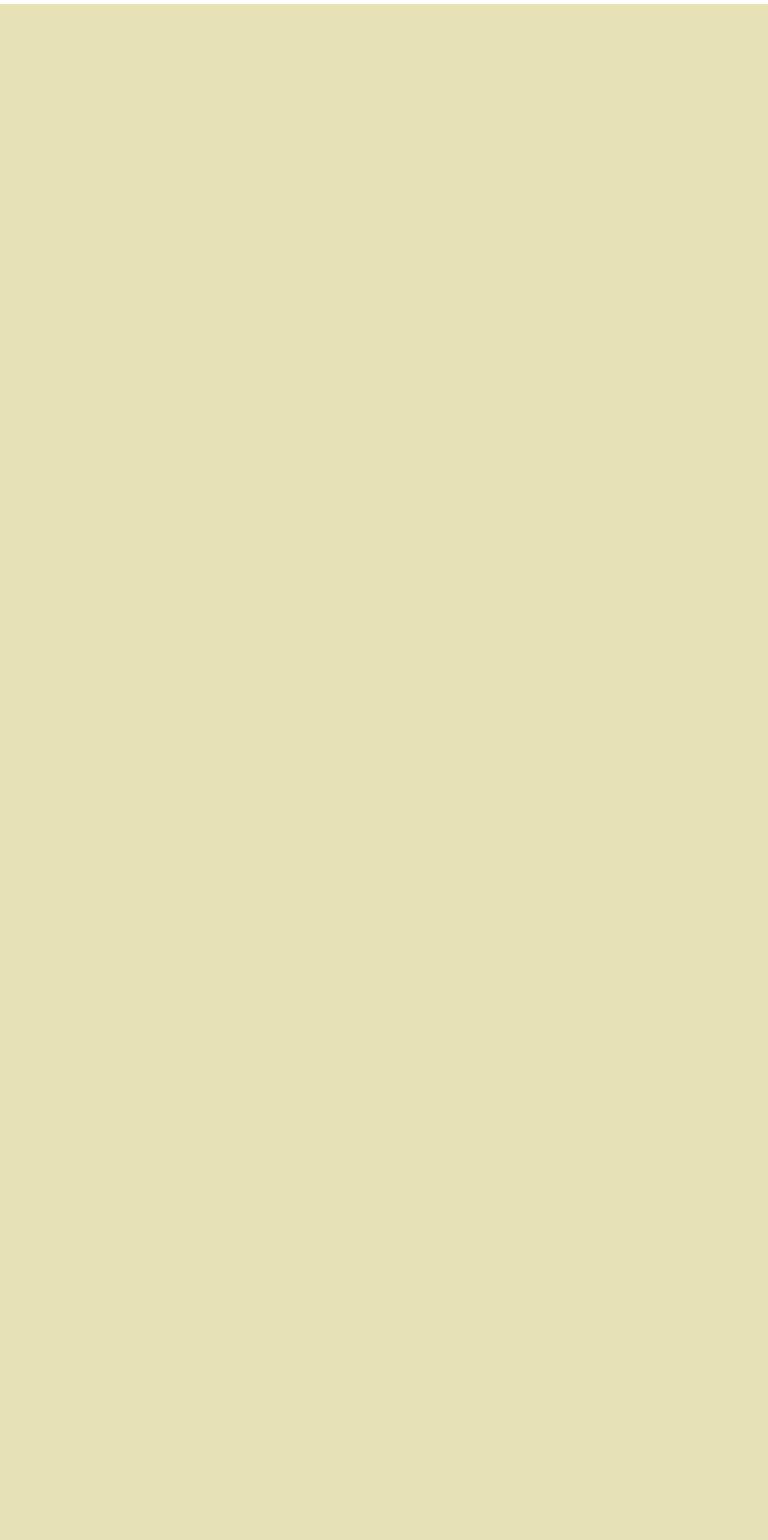
Bureau of
Educational and
Cultural Affairs

THE PURPOSE OF THIS ACT IS
TO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE UNITED STATES TO
INCREASE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF THE
UNITED STATES AND THE PEOPLE
OF OTHER COUNTRIES BY MEANS
OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL
EXCHANGE; TO STRENGTHEN
THE TIES WHICH UNITE US
WITH OTHER NATIONS...

*Excerpt from the Statement of Purpose of the
Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange
Act of 1961—the Fulbright-Hays Act.*



T H E T I E S

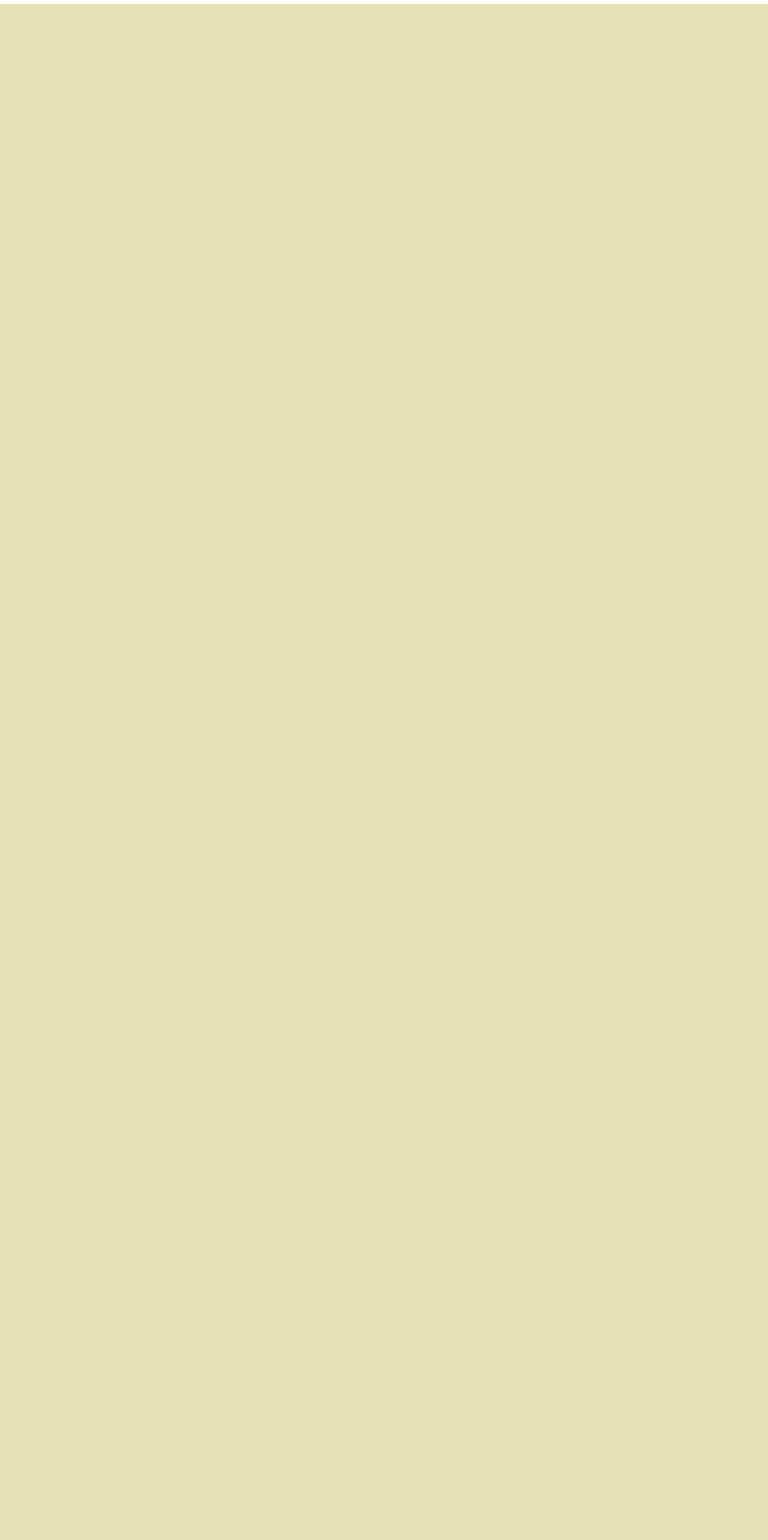


WHICH UNITE US

CONTENTS

THE MISSION OF THE BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS	1
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS	2
—The Fulbright Program	2
—Office of Global Educational Programs	4
—Office of English Language Programs	5
PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGES	7
—Office of Citizen Exchanges	7
—Cultural Programs	8
—Office of International Visitors	8
THE J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT FOREIGN SCHOLARSHIP BOARD	10
THE CULTURAL PROPERTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE	10
THE INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP	10
POLICY AND RESOURCES	11
—Exchange Visitor Program	
Designation Office	11
—Grants Management	11
PRINCIPAL OFFICERS	12
BASIC POINTS OF CONTACT	inside back cover
WEBSITE	back cover

T H E T I E S



PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

The Mission of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs supports the long-term national interest by fostering mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries. Bureau academic and professional exchange programs identify future leaders and build a foundation of trust with current and potential leaders throughout the world. Bureau programs and activities include the Fulbright Exchange Program, the International Visitor Program, Citizen Exchange Programs, and English Language Programs, Cultural Programs, Educational Advising, Humphrey Fellowships and College and University Affiliations Programs.

Academic Programs

The Office of Academic Exchange Programs plans and manages a wide spectrum of educational programs, from the globally recognized Fulbright exchanges to a range of special programs for Russia and the New Independent States (NIS). All of these exchange programs are run on the basis of open, merit-based competition.

The **Fulbright Program** provides grants to American and foreign students and scholars to study, teach, lecture or conduct research. The Presidentially-appointed J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board has oversight for this international educational exchange, a success story which marked its fiftieth anniversary in 1996.

Each year the *Fulbright Senior Scholar Program* sends approximately 800 American academics to more than 140 countries to lecture and conduct research in a wide variety of fields. Another 800 foreign scholars lecture and do research in the United States each year with grants and support from the *Visiting Scholar* and the *Scholar-in-Residence Programs*.

The *Fulbright Student Program* provides grants to U.S. and foreign students for baccalaureate and graduate study. More than 800 Americans study abroad each year under this program, while about 3,000 new and renewal grants are given to foreign students for study in the U.S.

The *Study of the U.S. Program* promotes a better understanding of American society and culture, past and present, by helping to develop and strengthen U.S. studies programs at foreign universities and secondary schools. Faculty from around the world participate annually in a series of *Fulbright American Studies Institutes*, which are intensive six-week seminars on U.S. history, politics, society and culture held at American universities.

The Branch also provides support to American Studies Associations abroad, funds conferences

and workshops, and assists overseas educational institutions seeking to enhance their book and library collections on the United States.

Congressionally mandated exchanges with Russia, the NIS, and east central Europe are designed to promote economic and democratic reform.

The *Edmund S. Muskie Fellowship*, named in honor of the late Secretary of State and U.S. Senator, and the *Freedom Support Act (FSA) Graduate Fellowship* offer recent graduates and mid-career professionals in fields related to economic and political reform the opportunity to study at the Master's level for one or two years and to pursue an internship within their field.

The *Regional Scholar Exchange Program* offers post-doctoral scholars and advanced graduate students research fellowships at U.S. institutions in the social sciences and humanities.

The *Junior Faculty Development Program* gives promising young faculty members from the NIS an opportunity to lecture, consult with colleagues and develop teaching skills at an American university for a full academic year, emphasizing fields related to growth of democracy and economic reform.

Freedom Support Act Fellowships in Contemporary Issues offer four months at U.S. host institutions to NIS policymakers, government officials and NGO leaders, to conduct research and analysis on policy issues relating to the political and economic transition in their home countries.

The *Freedom Support Act Undergraduate Program* provides one year of study at a U.S. university or community college for NIS undergraduates.

The *Ron Brown Fellowship Program*, named in honor of the late Secretary of Commerce and funded under the Support for Eastern European Democracies (SEED) Act, is directed at recent

graduate students and mid-career professionals from east central Europe. It provides one- or two-year graduate fellowships for Master's degree work at U.S. universities in fields such as law, economics, business and public administration. The program also includes internships.

The Russian-U.S. Leadership Fellows Program is an FSA program for outstanding Russian and American college graduates to enrich the education and experience of young people who show promise of contributing to mutual understanding between Russia and the U.S. It provides one year of intensive academic and professional training to young American and Russian leaders in fields relevant to the democratic transition of Russian society and the U.S.-Russian historical, political and economic context.

The Internet Access and Training Program (IATP) provides access to and training in the use of the Internet and the World Wide Web for the continued educational and professional development of exchange program alumni and other NIS citizens who are working toward the transition to democracy in their home countries. IATP provides e-mail and Internet training in Russian and other NIS languages to more than 10,000 end users, and conducts seminars for program alumni.

The Office of Global Educational Programs administers professional and teacher exchanges, institutional linkages, and programs and services designed to support and promote the international exchange of students and scholars.

The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program brings mid-career professionals to the U.S. for programs that combine graduate-level academic training with practical professional experiences. Begun in 1978, the program is named for the late Vice President. Fellows are selected competitively based on their potential for national leadership.

The *Institutional Linkages programs* support partnerships between U.S. and foreign institutions of higher education. Programs include the world-wide College and University Affiliations Program, and two FSA-funded programs, for NIS College and University Partnerships and for Community College Partnerships with Russia and Ukraine. The office also administers special projects to support curriculum reform and civic education in Central Europe and the NIS.

The *Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program* sponsors academic year and short-term classroom-to-classroom exchanges of teachers and school administrators between the U.S. and 34 countries worldwide. The office also organizes seminars, teacher training, and targeted projects responsive to host country needs. The FSA-funded Partners in Education Program provides secondary-level, civic and social science teachers with community-based training in the U.S.

The *Educational Information and Resources Program* supports a network of educational information centers, located in nearly every country of the world, which provide reliable, impartial information on the U.S. educational system. It also supports campus and community programs in the U.S. serving international students and scholars, and U.S. students studying abroad, and funds research on educational exchange, including the *Open Doors* census of the U.S. international academic community.

The **Office of English Language Programs** conducts a variety of activities to promote the teaching and learning of English overseas. These include the production and distribution of printed and electronic English teaching materials such as the *English Teaching Forum*, a quarterly professional journal for teachers of English outside the U.S.

Highly qualified English Language Officers work around the world to advise posts, foreign

English teaching educators and government officials on all aspects of academic programs. They also organize and take part in teacher training seminars. The *English Teaching Fellow Program* sends American teachers of English as a foreign language overseas for a year of direct teaching experience. The *English Language Specialist Program* sponsors senior American EFL specialists for short-term programs in academic institutions abroad.

Professional Exchanges

The Office of Citizen Exchanges manages professional, cultural and youth programs. Grants are used to create and strengthen public-private partnerships with American universities, community organizations, professional groups and other non-profit institutions. These partnerships benefit thousands of Americans and foreign visitors who take part in exchanges at the grassroots level. Open competition for Citizen Exchange grants are announced through the Federal Register.

Thematic categories for grants include conflict resolution, civic education, media development, rule of law, environmental protection, trade unionism, judicial training and public administration. Ideas are generated in consultation with embassies, and priority is given to proposals that strengthen ties among American and foreign institutions and that provide effective cost sharing.

The *Community Connections* program, funded under the Freedom Support Act, offers home stay-based, three- to five- week practical training opportunities in the U.S. for business people and other professionals from the countries of the former Soviet Union (Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Armenia and Kazakhstan). Local community host organizations arrange internships for participants based on interests and experience. Companies offering internships range from small, family-run enterprises to major, multinational “Fortune 500” corporations. Since 1994, over 7,000 participants have taken part in the program.

Youth Exchanges include the FSA-funded Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX), a program that provides full scholarships to high school students from the NIS to attend an American school and live with host families for one academic year. Another program, the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange, links German and American young people. FSA also supports

Teaching Excellence Awards to bring outstanding secondary teachers from the NIS to the U.S. for advanced in-service work.

The *Novgorod Museum Linkage* is a special museum partnership initiative under FSA. It involves a team of American marketing and museum management specialists from Colonial Williamsburg working with the Novgorod Ministry of Culture and staff of the United Museum in Novgorod to expand cultural tourism and public museum programs in Novgorod.

Cultural Programs emphasize fostering long-term relationships among artists, institutions and audiences, stimulating self-sustaining networks. The Cultural Programs staff works closely with private foundations and the National Endowment for the Arts to support the Fund for U.S. Artists at International Festivals and Exhibitions, which enables American artists to participate in major international performing and visual arts events.

The *Feature Film Service* staff, with private sector support from the motion picture industry, arranges film showings for prestigious Ambassadorial screenings, international film festivals and other official events. The *Creative Arts Exchanges Program* offers grants that link American artists, museum professionals and cultural institutions with their counterparts in other countries by partially funding nonprofit institutional projects that conduct two-way international cultural exchanges. The *Jazz Ambassador Program*, co-sponsored by the Kennedy Center, sends a small number of gifted American jazz musician duos on concert tours in countries where there is a lack of exposure to American cultural achievement.

The **Office of International Visitors** brings current and emerging foreign leaders to the

WHICH UNITE US

United States to meet and confer with professional counterparts and to gain a more complete understanding of the U.S. Visitors are identified and invited by embassies, and projects are designed to increase mutual understanding between the U.S. and other countries in support of U.S. foreign policy goals.

Each year there are between 4,000 and 5,000 program participants, approximately one third of whom come at their own, or their government's expense as *Voluntary Visitors*. The rest are U.S.-funded *International Visitors*. Almost 200 past and present Chiefs of State have participated in this program since its inception.

The International Visitor Program also relies on the commitment and skills of approximately 100 volunteer organizations across the country, members of the National Council for International Visitors. These voluntary organizations schedule meetings, organize events and offer home hospitality to the distinguished guests. Through personal involvement, thousands of Americans across the nation contribute to the success of this program.

The J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board

The J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board was established by Congress to supervise the worldwide exchange program. Appointed by the President, the Board is composed of 12 members drawn from academic, cultural and public life. The Board sets policies and procedures and supervises the conduct of the Fulbright program in the U.S. and abroad.

The Cultural Property Advisory Committee

The Cultural Property Advisory Committee is composed of 11 Presidentially appointed experts in archaeology and the international sale of cultural property, and representatives of museums and the public, who recommend appropriate action in accord with U.S. policy regarding the protection of other nations' cultural heritage that is in jeopardy from pillage.

The Interagency Working Group

The Interagency Working Group on U.S. Government-sponsored International Exchanges and Training (IAWG) was created by President Clinton's Executive Order in 1997. In 1999, Congress provided the legal authority for the IAWG by amending the Fulbright-Hays Act. The purpose of the IAWG is to recommend measures for improving the coordination, efficiency and effectiveness of USG-sponsored international exchange and training programs. The statutory members of the IAWG are the Departments of State (Chair), Defense, Justice and Education, USAID, the Office of Management and Budget and the National Security Council.

Policy and Resources

The **Office of Policy and Evaluation** evaluates Bureau programs, advises the Assistant Secretary on policy, and is responsible for coordinating strategic planning. It develops the Bureau's performance plan and monitors activities among the Bureau's offices to ensure consistency with U.S. foreign policy. This office provides staff support for the Cultural Property Advisory Committee set up under terms of the U.S. implementing legislation for the UNESCO Convention on Cultural Property, and for the U.S. government in carrying out its treaty obligations under the convention.

The **Exchange Visitor Program Designation Office** (ECA/GCV) designates public and private organizations to operate under ECA auspices to bring foreign visitors to the U.S. and to send Americans abroad.

Grant Management—The Bureau administers some programs directly and others through grants to American private sector and non-profit organizations.

The Bureau's Diversity Goals

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State strives to ensure that all programs conducted under its mandate reflect the diversity of the intended audiences. The Bureau aggressively seeks and actively encourages the involvement of American and international participants from traditionally underrepresented groups in all its grants, programs and other activities. These include women, racial and ethnic minorities and people with disabilities.

Principal Officers

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Further information about
Department of State's Bureau of
Educational and Cultural Affairs,
including application procedures
and deadlines for grant programs,
is available via the Internet at
the Bureau's website:

<http://exchanges.state.gov>



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